(b) if so, the area of railway land illegally encroached upon so far;

(c) whether Government are making any efforts to remove such illegal encroachments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir, some railway lands have been encroached upon.

(b) 2162 hectares of Railway land, including land near railway lines, is under illegal encroachment.

(c) and (d) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

723. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3535 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th August, 2000 and state the details of accident prone unmanned level crossings in the country and the action proposed to man such crossings during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Unstarred Question No. 3535 answered in Rajya Sabha on 25.08.2000 has been referred to Accidents at unmanned level crossings are primarily due to negligence of road users. While no unmanned level crossing can be said to be accident prone as such, there are 20 unmanned level crossings where 2 accidents have occurred during last 5 years.

Unmanned level crossings have been categorised into category I to V based on certain criteria that include Train Vehicle Units, Plying of motoriscd vehicles and visibility conditions. For prioritisation of work of manning of such crossings, category I is given highest priority followed by other categories. On Broad Gauge 4449 level crossings falling under categories I to V have been identified for manning. In addition Hon'ble MPs are being approached to sponsor manning of unmanned level crossing from MPLADS funds. For each such proposal railways will man one unmanned level crossing in addition as identified by the Hon'ble MP.

Work on 218 level crossings out of 1810 sanctioned for manning has been completed and on others it is in progress. Besides 44 proposals have been received from Hon'ble MPs under MPLADs scheme and arc in various stages of implementation.

Setting up of CCI branches in Karnataka

724. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for setting up branches of Container Corporation of India in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A preliminary study was conducted in-house by the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways to ascertain the feasibility of setting up new container terminals at Mysore and Mangalore. It revealed that setting up terminals at Mysore and Mangalore is not justified at this stage.

Ghanauli and Pinjore Rail Line Projects

725. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration for a rail line project between Ghanauli and Pinjore *via* Nalagarh and Baddi in Himachal Pradesh, benefitting the public in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

(b) whether any communication have been received from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana Governments in this behalf;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.